(c) As the finished product Rifampicin is costlier, the question of over invoicing does not arise.

(d) The import of Rifamycin-S, has been noticed recently at Bombay Airport at the rate of US Dollar 140 per kg. No specific approval is required as the clearance is allowed under Open General Licence and is claimed accordingly by the importers.

Changes in Customs Duty Structure

2429. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently announced certain changes in the customs duty structure;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the purpose of announcing the changes in customs duty structure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) During the period 1st July to 31st October, 1988, 82 notifications were issued making changes in the customs duties. Copies of such notifications are being laid on the Table of the House from time to time. Changes in customs duty rates are made for achieving objectives such as protection of indigenous industry, reduction of in-put costs for the indigenous industry, promotion of exports etc.

Violation of FERA by Mr. Win Chadha

2430. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the action suggested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) the income tax authorities have served a notice on Mr. Win Chadha (Under FERA) on their examination of documents concerning BOFORS deal; and

(b) if so what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise. However, the assessing officer is carrying out enquiries into the matter under the provisions of the Income Tax Act.

Gold Loans to Farmers

2431. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of farmers State-wise who availed gold loans and, having become defaulters, whose ornaments (pledged with banks etc.) were auctioned during each of the last three years and so far during the current year and also the value of gold (ornaments etc.) so auctioned;

(b) what is the year-wise and State-wise amount of bank loans so involved; and

(c) what is the number of industrialists whose gold ornaments were pledged with banks and were similarly auctioned in the same period and also the value thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India has reported that their present data reporting system does not provide the information asked for.